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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$3.6 million broadband project will benefit Hopi, Navajo communities

"I appreciate the work of Hopi Telecommunications Inc., specifically for their efforts to help improve telecommunications on the Hopi Reservation and in parts of the Navajo Nation."

– Hopi Tribal Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa

KYKOTSMOVI, Ariz. -- Hopi Tribal Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa commended the board of directors and employees of Hopi Telecommunications Inc. and the USDA Rural Development for a \$3.6 million loan-grant for a broadband project that will serve Hopi and Navajo communities during a Community Appreciation Event held Nov. 17 in Polacca, Ariz.

The event featured a catered meal, activities, entertainment and an award presentation by Alan Stephens of USDA Rural Development. Stephens, along with representatives from Hopi Telecommunications Inc. (HTI) and Shari Farrington, a representative from Congressman Trent Frank's Office (R-AZ), presented a plaque and made the announcement of the \$3.6 million loan-grant combination.



The Hopi Tribe celebrated a \$3.6 million loan-grant for a broadband project that will serve Hopi and Navajo communities on Nov. 17, 2010, in Polacca, Ariz. Pictured left to right is Shari Farrington of Congressman Trent Frank's Office, Hopi Tribal Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa and Carroll Onsae, general manager of Hopi Telecommunications Inc. (Photo by Louella Nahsonhoya)

According to HTI, the loan-grant combination, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be used to design, engineer and construct a fiber-optic connection between the Hopi Reservation and the world. HTI will plan to build 61-miles of fiber-optics between the communities of Jeddito and Holbrook, Ariz. This system will help connect 22 community facilities on the Hopi Reservation to the world with faster broadband speeds.

HTI reports several entities will directly benefit from this fiber connection, they include: the Hopi Cultural Center, the Hopi Health Care Center, Hopi Police and courts, area schools and

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tribal offices. HTI also plans to construct facilities and install equipment to provide broadband services to subscribers that are currently not being served around the communities of Jeddito and Spider Mound. Approximately 400 residences in the Jeddito and Spider Mound communities do not have access to telephone or broadband services.

Chairman Shingoitewa is thankful to everyone involved in bringing this project to fruition.

"I appreciate the work of Hopi Telecommunications Inc., specifically for their efforts to help improve telecommunications on the Hopi Reservation and in parts of the Navajo Nation," Shingoitewa said. "I am very happy to know we are taking necessary steps to transitioning into the 21st Century with the use of technology. We have become part of a modern world, and updated telecommunications is critical for the services we provide on the reservation."

Congressman Frank sent a letter that was read by his representative Shari Farrington congratulating Hopi for receipt of the loan-grant and for their work to help bring needed infrastructure enabling Hopi to be linked to the outside world.

Carroll Onsaе, president and general manager of HTI, said he works to ensure that people are not left behind and said there is a need to keep up with demands with how healthcare is delivered, with the delivery of education and with other critical services involving technology.

According to HTI, the three-year project is slated to begin in early 2011. Currently, HTI is working on right-of-ways and preliminary engineering.

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For more information, contact Hopi Telecommunications Inc. at 928-738-HOPI.